

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/542,078

Examiner

Cheukfan Lee

Applicant(s)

SAWADA, HIDEKI

Art Unit

2625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to an application for patent filed July 13, 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-9.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 7/13/2005
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.


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1. Claims 1-9 are allowed. Claim 1 is independent.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claim 1 is allowable over the prior art of record because the prior art, including those cited below, does not disclose the claim limitations "a subsidiary region contacting with an end of the main region" and "wherein the light source is offset in a direction receding from the main region with respect to a center of the light incident surface in the primary scanning direction", in combination with other limitations of claim 1.

Claims 2-9 depend on claim 1.

Note: Ogura et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,417,508), cited below, discloses a light source (7) (the most left LED or the most right LED shown in Fig. 3) disposed offset in a direction receding from a main portion/region (the straight portion) of a light guide (8) with respect to a center an light incident surface (8a) of a subsidiary portion/region (the left end portion or the right end portion shown in Fig. 3) in the primary scanning direction. However, the Ogura et al. does not disclose that the subsidiary region contacts an end of the main region as claimed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Fujimoto (U.S. Patent No. 6,259,082), "Image reading apparatus", Figs. 1, 2, 4, 12, 13, 15, and 16

Ishihara et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2001/0003504 A1), "Illuminator for liquid crystal display apparatus", LED of LED chip 3 is offset in a direction receding to the left as viewed in Fig. 1 with respect to a center of a light incident surface in the left-right direction as viewed in Fig. 1, but subsidiary region (the left region) not contacting with an end of a main region, and not in image reading device

Sako et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,724,503), "Image sensor substrate and image sensor employ it", Fig. 9

Ogura et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,417,508), Figs. 2 and 3

Sawada (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2006/0152772 A1), Fig. 3, no mention or showing of a position of the light source with respect to the center of the light incident surface (flat surface 32a) in the primary scanning direction

Sawada (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2006/0050390 A1), Figs. 1, 5, and 6

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cheukfan Lee whose telephone number is (571) 272-7407. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Mon-Fri.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward L. Coles can be reached on (571) 272-7402. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Cheukfan Lee
September 20, 2007